IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) An apparatus for extracting a sample from a strip of material, said apparatus comprising:

a roller having a periphery surface;

a cutting wheel having at least one cutting die extending from its periphery, the material strip capable of advancing between said roller and said cutting wheel, said cutting wheel rotating in coordinated relation to the advance of said material strip, said cutting wheel rotating into a position wherein said cutting die engages said material strip and rotates through engagement with said periphery surface of said roller thereby extracting the sample from said material strip; and

a conveyor including a strip of material which passes through a testing mechanism and arranged to act as a conveyer belt, the sample disposed between the strip of material and a second strip of material upstream of the testing mechanism, and are in turn conveyed to the testing mechanism and removed from the testing mechanism by intermittent activation of strip drive means.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said periphery surface of said roller is hardened so as to withstand repeated engagement with said cutting die.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said periphery surface is coated with a generally non-adhesive substance inhibiting said strip of material from adhering to said periphery surface of said roller during extraction of said sample.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the hardened periphery surface of said roller comprises steel.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said cutting wheel has a plurality of cutting dies extending from its periphery.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said cutting die comprises:

a hollow body connected at one end to the periphery of said cutting wheel and open at an opposite end thereof, wherein said sample is retained within said hollow body after extraction from said strip.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 6 where said cutting die further comprises an ejector located within said hollow body configured to selectively eject said sample out of said hollow body.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said ejector comprises an ejector pin located within said hollow body.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said means for ejecting the sample is located within said cutting die so that engagement of the ejector means forces said sample out of said cutting die and onto said conveyor.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said ejector means comprises an ejector pin located within said cutting die, that when actuated, forces said sample out of said cutting die.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said conveyor comprises a strip of film material which passes through said testing mechanism and is arranged to act as a conveyer belt, samples to be tested are located on the film material upstream of the testing mechanism, and are in turn conveyed to the testing mechanism and removed from the testing mechanism.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for extracting a sample from a material strip and testing properties of said sample, said apparatus comprising:

a roller having a peripheral surface;

a cutting wheel having a cutting die extending from its periphery;

wherein said material strip advances between said roller and said cutting wheel, said

cutting wheel rotating into a position wherein said cutting die engages said material strip and rotates through engagement with said peripheral surface of said roller thereby extracting the sample from said material strip;

means for ejecting said extracted sample from said cutting die;

a testing mechanism; and

a conveyor disposed between said testing mechanism and said extracted sample, said conveyor including first and second strips of material configured to sandwich said sample and convey said sample to said testing mechanism.

24. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for extracting a sample from a material strip and testing properties of said sample, said apparatus comprising:

a roller having a peripheral surface;

a cutting wheel having a cutting die extending from its periphery;

wherein said material strip advances between said roller and said cutting wheel, said cutting wheel rotating into a position wherein said cutting die engages said material strip and rotates through engagement with said peripheral surface of said roller thereby extracting the sample from said material strip;

an ejector configured to eject said extracted sample from said cutting die;

a conveyor support arrangement including support for a first source of conveyor material and support for a second source of conveyor material above the first source, the support for the first source configured to permit a supply of conveyor material supporting the sample to proceed to a testing location, the support for the second source configured to permit a second supply of

conveyor material to overlap the sample prior to reaching the testing location.